

# SENATE BILL No. 116

## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 9-18.

**Synopsis:** Year of manufacture antique license plates. Allows a person who registers a motor vehicle as an antique motor vehicle to furnish and display on the vehicle an authentic license plate or a reproduction of an authentic license plate from the model year. Provides that two authentic or reproduction license plates must be displayed on the vehicle if the model year of the vehicle was a year during which two plates were required. Makes conforming changes.

**Effective:** January 1, 2003.

**Wyss, Hume**

December 7, 2001, read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation and Interstate Cooperation.

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Introduced

Second Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2002)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2001 General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 116

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 9-18-2-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
2 [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2003]: Sec. 7. (a) A person who owns a  
3 vehicle subject to registration shall register each vehicle owned by the  
4 person as follows:
- 5 (1) A vehicle subject to section 8 of this chapter shall be  
6 registered under section 8.
  - 7 (2) A vehicle not subject to section 8 of this chapter or to the  
8 International Registration Plan shall be registered before:
    - 9 (A) March 1 of each year; or
    - 10 (B) an earlier date subsequent to January 1 of each year as set  
11 by the bureau.
  - 12 (3) School buses owned by a school corporation are exempt from  
13 annual registration but are subject to registration under  
14 IC 20-9.1-4.
  - 15 (4) Subject to subsection (f), a vehicle subject to the International  
16 Registration Plan shall be registered before April 1 of each year.
  - 17 (b) Registrations and re-registrations under this section are for the

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1 calendar year. Registration and re-registration for school buses owned  
2 by a school corporation may be for more than a calendar year.

3 (c) License plates for a vehicle subject to this section may be  
4 displayed during:

5 (1) the calendar year for which the vehicle is registered; and

6 (2) the period of time:

7 (A) subsequent to the calendar year; and

8 (B) before the date that the vehicle must be re-registered.

9 (d) **Except as provided in IC 9-18-12-2.5**, a person who owns or  
10 operates a vehicle may not operate or permit the operation of a vehicle  
11 that:

12 (1) is required to be registered under this chapter; and

13 (2) has expired license plates.

14 (e) If a vehicle that is required to be registered under this chapter  
15 has:

16 (1) been operated on the highways; and

17 (2) not been properly registered under this chapter;

18 the bureau shall, before the vehicle is re-registered, collect the  
19 registration fee that the owner of the vehicle would have paid if the  
20 vehicle had been properly registered.

21 (f) The department of state revenue may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2  
22 to issue staggered registration to motor vehicles subject to the  
23 International Registration Plan.

24 SECTION 2. IC 9-18-2-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.176-2001,  
25 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
26 JANUARY 1, 2003]: Sec. 8. (a) The bureau shall register vehicles  
27 under the schedule in this section.

28 (b) **Except as provided in IC 9-18-12-2.5**, a person who owns a  
29 vehicle shall receive a license plate, renewal tag, or other indicia upon  
30 registration of the vehicle. The bureau may determine the device  
31 required to be displayed.

32 (c) A corporation shall register, before February 1 of each year, the  
33 following vehicles that are owned by the corporation:

34 (1) A passenger motor vehicle that is not regularly rented to  
35 others for not more than twenty-nine (29) days in the regular  
36 course of the corporation's business.

37 (2) A recreational vehicle.

38 (3) A motorcycle.

39 (4) A truck that:

40 (A) is not regularly rented to others for not more than  
41 twenty-nine (29) days in the regular course of the corporation's  
42 business; and

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- 1 (B) has a declared gross weight of not more than eleven  
 2 thousand (11,000) pounds.
- 3 (d) A corporation that owns a:  
 4 (1) passenger motor vehicle; or  
 5 (2) truck that has a declared gross weight of not more than eleven  
 6 thousand (11,000) pounds;  
 7 that is regularly rented to others for periods of not more than  
 8 twenty-nine (29) days in the regular course of the corporation's  
 9 business must register the passenger motor vehicle or truck before  
 10 March 1 of each year.
- 11 (e) A person who owns a:  
 12 (1) passenger motor vehicle;  
 13 (2) recreational vehicle;  
 14 (3) motorcycle; or  
 15 (4) truck that has a declared gross weight of not more than eleven  
 16 thousand (11,000) pounds;  
 17 that is not subject to the registration requirements under subsection (d)  
 18 shall register the passenger motor vehicle, recreational vehicle,  
 19 motorcycle, or truck in conformance with the schedule set forth in  
 20 subsection (f).
- 21 (f) The following schedule applies to persons who own vehicles that  
 22 are required to be registered under subsection (e):
- 23 (1) Persons whose last names begin with the letters A through BE  
 24 shall register before February 16 of each year.
- 25 (2) Persons whose last names begin with the letters BF through  
 26 BZ shall register before March 1 of each year.
- 27 (3) Persons whose last names begin with the letter C shall register  
 28 before March 16 of each year.
- 29 (4) Persons whose last names begin with the letter D shall register  
 30 before April 1 of each year.
- 31 (5) Persons whose last names begin with the letters E through F  
 32 shall register before April 16 of each year.
- 33 (6) Persons whose last names begin with the letter G shall register  
 34 before May 1 of each year.
- 35 (7) Persons whose last names begin with the letters HA through  
 36 HN shall register before May 16 of each year.
- 37 (8) Persons whose last names begin with the letters HO through  
 38 I shall register before June 1 of each year.
- 39 (9) Persons whose last names begin with the letters J through KM  
 40 shall register before June 16 of each year.
- 41 (10) Persons whose last names begin with the letters KN through  
 42 L shall register before July 1 of each year.

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(11) Persons whose last names begin with the letters MA through ME shall register before July 16 of each year.

(12) Persons whose last names begin with the letters MF through O shall register before August 1 of each year.

(13) Persons whose last names begin with the letters P through Q shall register before August 16 of each year.

(14) Persons whose last names begin with the letter R shall register before September 1 of each year.

(15) Persons whose last names begin with the letters SA through SN shall register before September 16 of each year.

(16) Persons whose last names begin with the letters SO through T shall register before October 1 of each year.

(17) Persons whose last names begin with the letters U through WK shall register before October 16 of each year.

(18) Persons whose last names begin with the letters WL through Z shall register before November 1 of each year.

(g) A person who owns a vehicle required to be registered under subsection (c), (d), or (e) and who desires to register the vehicle for the first time must apply to the bureau for a registration application form. The bureau shall do the following:

(1) Administer the registration application form.

(2) Issue the license plate.

(3) Collect the proper registration and service fees in accordance with the procedure established by the bureau.

(h) **Except as provided in IC 9-18-12-2.5**, the bureau shall issue a semipermanent plate under section 30 of this chapter, or:

(1) an annual renewal tag; or

(2) other indicia;

to be affixed on the semipermanent plate.

SECTION 3. IC 9-18-2-26 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2003]: Sec. 26. (a) **Except as provided in IC 9-18-12-2.5**, license plates shall be displayed as follows:

(1) For a motorcycle, trailer, semitrailer, or recreational vehicle, upon the rear of the vehicle.

(2) For a farm tractor or tractor, upon the front of the vehicle.

(3) For every other vehicle, upon the rear of the vehicle.

(b) A license plate shall be securely fastened, in a horizontal position, to the vehicle for which the plate is issued:

(1) to prevent the license plate from swinging;

(2) at a height of at least twelve (12) inches from the ground, measuring from the bottom of the license plate;

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- (3) in a place and position that are clearly visible;
- (4) maintained free from foreign materials and in a condition to be clearly legible; and
- (5) not obstructed or obscured by tires, bumpers, accessories, or other opaque objects.

(c) The bureau may adopt rules the bureau considers advisable to enforce the proper mounting and securing of license plates on vehicles consistent with this chapter.

SECTION 4. IC 9-18-2-27 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2003]: Sec. 27. (a) Except as provided in ~~subsection~~ **subsections (b) and (c)**, a vehicle required to be registered under this chapter may not be used or operated upon the highways if the motor vehicle displays any of the following:

- (1) A registration number belonging to any other vehicle.
- (2) A fictitious registration number.
- (3) A sign or placard bearing the words "license applied for" or "in transit" or other similar signs.

(b) Any other number may be displayed for any lawful purpose upon a:

- (1) motor vehicle;
- (2) trailer;
- (3) semitrailer; or
- (4) recreational vehicle;

in addition to the license plates issued by the bureau under this chapter.

**(c) If a vehicle is registered as an antique motor vehicle under IC 9-18-12, an authentic or a reproduction Indiana license plate from the vehicle's model year may be displayed on the vehicle under IC 9-18-12-2.5.**

SECTION 5. IC 9-18-2-48 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2003]: Sec. 48. (a) The commissioner may enter into a contract or an agreement authorizing a person to create and use a reproduction of a license plate issued under this article.

(b) **Except as provided in subsection (d)**, a person may not create or use a reproduction of a license plate issued under this article unless the creation or use of the reproduction is expressly authorized in writing by the commissioner. The commissioner may impose under IC 4-21.5 a civil penalty upon a person who violates this subsection. The amount of a civil penalty imposed under this subsection:

- (1) shall be determined by the commissioner; and
- (2) may not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

(c) Money paid to the bureau as:

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(1) compensation to the state under a contract or an agreement entered into under subsection (a); or

(2) a civil penalty imposed under subsection (b); shall be collected and deposited according to IC 9-29-1-1.

**(d) If a vehicle is registered as an antique motor vehicle under IC 9-18-12, a reproduction of a license plate from the vehicle's model year may be displayed on the vehicle under IC 9-18-12-2.5.**

SECTION 6. IC 9-18-12-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2003]: Sec. 2. (a) **Except as provided in section 2.5 of this chapter**, the bureau shall issue one (1) license plate to the person who owns an antique motor vehicle that is registered under this chapter.

(b) A license plate for an antique motor vehicle shall be:

- (1) manufactured of embossed steel; and
- (2) painted a cream color.

(c) The lettering imprinted on a license plate issued under this chapter shall:

- (1) be painted in red;
- (2) contain:
  - (A) the registration number assigned to the registration certificate by the bureau; and
  - (B) the words "Historic Motor Vehicle, State of Indiana"; and
- (3) indicate the year for which the antique motor vehicle has been registered.

(d) Instead of issuing a new license plate each time that an antique motor vehicle is registered, the bureau may issue to the person who owns the antique motor vehicle a tag or sticker that indicates the year for which the motor vehicle has been registered.

(e) A license plate issued under this ~~chapter~~ **section** shall be securely attached to the rear of an antique motor vehicle.

SECTION 7. IC 9-18-12-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2003]: **Sec. 2.5. (a) A person who registers an antique motor vehicle under this chapter may furnish and display on the vehicle an Indiana license plate from the vehicle's model year.**

**(b) A license plate furnished and displayed under this section must be:**

- (1) an authentic license plate from the vehicle's model year; or**
- (2) a reproduction of an authentic license plate required during the vehicle's model year that is identical to the authentic license plate in material, size, form, and color.**

**(c) Before a license plate is mounted on an antique motor vehicle**

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1 under this section, the bureau shall inspect the license plate to  
2 determine whether the license plate:

3 (1) complies with this section; and

4 (2) is in suitable condition to be displayed.

5 (d) If an Indiana license plate from the vehicle's model year is  
6 displayed on a motor vehicle registered as an antique motor vehicle  
7 under this chapter, the current certificate of registration of the  
8 motor vehicle must be kept in the vehicle and available for  
9 inspection upon the demand of a police officer. Notwithstanding  
10 IC 9-18-2-21, this subsection is not satisfied by keeping a  
11 reproduction of the certificate of registration in the vehicle or  
12 making a reproduction of the certificate of registration available  
13 for inspection.

14 (e) The bureau shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 that list the  
15 years during which two (2) license plates were required for motor  
16 vehicles registered in Indiana.

17 (f) If:

18 (1) a vehicle is registered as an antique motor vehicle under  
19 this chapter;

20 (2) the model year of the vehicle is a year during which two  
21 (2) license plates were required for motor vehicles registered  
22 in Indiana; and

23 (3) the person who registers the vehicle wishes to furnish and  
24 display on the vehicle an Indiana license plate from the  
25 vehicle's model year;

26 two (2) identical Indiana license plates from the vehicle's model  
27 year plates must be displayed on the vehicle.

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